

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Is President Grant Fulfilling His Duties of Neutrality?

How active and vigorous may be President Grant's private sympathies in behalf of the Cuban insurgents, and how desirous he may be, on personal grounds, of a war with Spain, he is not at liberty, in this case, to obey his individual impulses. He is a public officer of the United States, sworn to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and the neutrality laws are nevertheless laws, and he is bound to enforce them as he would execute any other laws, whether he personally approved them or not, thinking that the surest way to make a bad law odious and secure its repeal is by its strict enforcement. He has now a good opportunity to put this doctrine of his in practice, if, as is supposed, he dislikes the neutrality laws.

The reasons for supposing that General Grant's animus in this Cuban disturbance is not pacific, are various. In the first place, it is known, on credible testimony, that he was strongly in favor of marching into Mexico and driving out Maximilian immediately on the close of our civil war—a fact that is very significant of the tone and temper of his mind. In the next place, his strengthening our naval and military forces on the Gulf for the protection of our citizens, without at the same time taking any steps for the suppression of the insurrection in this country to aid the insurgents, is a clear indication that his feelings are not neutral, but strongly biased in favor of Cuban independence. In the third place, he is a soldier, who won all the popularity he ever possessed by his military successes; and a war with Spain is the readiest method of repeating his waning credit. In the fourth place, he is notoriously ignorant both of our own laws and the laws of nations, and cannot be very deeply impressed with a sense of neutral duties. It seems, therefore, the duty of the press to do what it can to enlighten his mind, and call his attention to the obligations which rest upon him in the present conjuncture. The country does not want war; but we fear the new President is managing in such a way that we may drift into a war with Spain without any justifiable cause.

The ostensible purpose of concentrating a force in the Gulf is the protection of American citizens; a laudable object whenever their rights are endangered, and perhaps imperative necessity since the late offensive decree of the Captain-General of Cuba. But the President of the United States is bound to consider the duties of this country, as well as its rights; especially in a case like the present, where the exposure of our citizens to danger in the absence of our troops is a violation of our laws. Dulce threatens to shoot as pirates all persons caught bearing aid to the insurgents. President Grant thereupon immediately increases our naval force in the Cuban waters, apparently to prevent or avenge the execution of this threat. It was proper for him to do this, but not this alone. If our neutrality laws were faithfully executed, there would be no body in whom this Government is interested for the threatened severity to act upon. It is quite as important that our citizens should not commit a crime which our own laws condemn and punish, as that they should be protected from excessive penalties at the hands of an injured foreign Government. Our Government should not be less solicitous to discharge its duties than to maintain its dignity and rights. How happens it that the Cuban waters are infested with the kind of offenders against whom the Captain-General launches his barbarous decree? It is owing to the violation of a law which the President of the United States is solemnly sworn to enforce. There is danger that his exhibition of vigor to shelter these criminals from undue harshness will be construed by them as a token of his favor and encouragement, unless it is accompanied by an equal exhibition of vigor for the repression of their unlawful enterprises. We will quote a single section of the stringent neutrality law of 1818:—

"If any person shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begin or set on foot, or provide or prepare the means for, any military expedition or enterprise to be carried on from any place within the territory or dominions of any foreign prince or State, or of any colony, district or people, with whom the United States are at peace, every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding three thousand dollars and imprisoned not more than three years."

Now, what are the appropriate and customary means of enforcing a law of this character? The precedents on this subject are so numerous and so uniform in their character, as to spare President Grant any necessity for thinking out the subject for himself, if he will only be at the pains to learn what has been done by his predecessors in cases of a similar order. President Fillmore, at the time of the Lopez expedition against Cuba. Mr. Webster, Secretary of State at the time of the last, and probably wrote the proclamation. The necessity of such proclamations rests upon reasons of humanity as well as upon the duty of executing the laws. The enthusiastic, warm-blooded citizens who embark in such enterprises are generally ignorant of the laws, and are often hurried unwittingly into crime by their generous impulses. It is the duty of the Government to enlighten their ignorance, to warn them against violating the laws of their country, and, if possible, save them from penal consequences. Another method of repression which former Presidents have thought it their duty to adopt in like circumstances, is to issue special instructions to the district attorneys, marshals, and collectors of customs, to exert the most active vigilance for the detection, prevention, and punishment of these unlawful enterprises. It was in consequence of such instructions that Governor Quitman, of Mississippi, was arrested and tried for abetting the Lopez expedition against Cuba, and resigned his office in order that the dignity of the State might not suffer by his trial as a criminal.

Now, why is it that General Grant, while showing a praiseworthy zeal for the protection of our citizens in the Gulf, has adopted none of the usual precautions for preventing their exposure to the just penalties of our own laws and the threatened atrocities of the Captain-General of Cuba? Does he mean to treat the neutrality laws as a dead letter? If not, by what peculiar and unprecedented methods does he propose to execute them? He is precluded from saying that the occasion has not yet become grave enough for a resort to the ordinary precautions. When it is necessary to make a formidable naval and military demonstration to avert transgressors of the neutrality laws from the excessive severity of a foreign government, one would think it was high time that they were warned against

the consequences of such transgressions. As matters now stand, with rights vigorously insisted on and duties utterly neglected, it looks too much as if the President is willing that American citizens should run their heads into the lion's mouth, in order that he may have the credit of their rescue at the expense of a war with Spain.

The Cuban Campaign.

Given, as a seat of popular insurrection, a long, narrow island, with unhealthy coast and a backbone of mountains, with thousands of situations admirably adapted to isolated defensive warfare, but without ready means of communication through a territory which, though not so large as New York, presents distances between its leading cities greater than from tide-water to Chicago; given a population ill-armed and too scattered for a close organization, but generally in sympathy with the insurgents; a power three thousand miles away, itself in the later stages of a revolution, with few troops and less money, straining its resources and its credit to the utmost in the effort to reduce this island to subjection; the Government forces unaccommodated, ill-fitted for active operations, and comparatively ignorant of the country, the insurgents hardy, familiar with the regions through which they move, and exempt from the terrors which the approaching unhealthy season brings to new-comers.

With such conditions, what features would a campaign be likely to exhibit? The problem does not seem one of remarkable difficulty; the journals which complain so vehemently of the confusion in the Cuban news might almost, in Emersonian style, evolve its solution from their own consciousness. There could be no great battles, because there are no great armies, and no means of rapid concentration. There could be even no effective cooperation. Each little band, having its own stretch of country on which to forage, and its own easy line of retreat to the mountains, would make a little campaign of its own. The insurgents of to-day would, on occasion, sink into the peaceful planters of to-morrow. The country would be turbulent, outbreaks would be frequent, property and life would be unsafe, but the insurrection itself would be hard to fix.

There would be many attacks on isolated outposts, many devices to harass the garrisons, every effort to wear out the enemy and prolong the struggle; but there would be few attempts to hold large towns or extensive tracts of the country. Operating in this way, the insurgents would have nothing to defend; they would be free to embrace every opportunity for attack; and their movements would compel the enemy to waste his resources in keeping up a number of posts. Thus the contest would be prolonged; the financial distress of the mother country would be increased; the army of the enemy would be gradually weakened; and, as the hot season approached, would come at last the Cuban opportunity. Meanwhile the whole field of the struggle would be covered by a mist of exaggeration and uncertainty. In the absence of great engagements, there would be multitudinous accounts of small ones, which we might be sure would lose nothing in their proportions at the hands of the grandiloquent Spanish reporters. The day when the skirmishes in West Virginia were pronounced the campaign of a second Napoleon is not yet so remote that we need to deny it to be rich and most important to deny it to be rich and most important possession, is inexplicable. When these seek, therefore, to make light of the struggle in progress on our neighboring island, we are forced to believe that they cannot have sufficiently considered the conditions under which it is made. We have had no reason to expect great battles thus far, and there certainly have been none. We have had no reason to expect even a fully organized insurrectionary army, and there is none—no prospect of a look for the capture of important towns, or for any effort, save to nurse the flame of hostility to the Spaniard, and prolong the revolt into the unhealthy summer months. It is too soon yet to pronounce the insurrection a success; but it is not too soon to say that these aims have been attained, and that, with them attained, the prospect for Cuban independence was never brighter than now.

Our Legation in Spain.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Hon. John P. Hale, our Minister at Madrid, some time since went to New Hampshire, member of Congress, begging him to secure his retention in office—not mainly because he wanted the office, but because he wanted to triumph over Mr. H. J. Perry, his Secretary of Legation, and Secretary Seward, both of whom had proved themselves, officially and personally, his enemies. The letter was forthwith published. Mr. Fogg, formerly our Minister in Switzerland, and more recently United States Senator from New Hampshire, feeling the honor of his name involved in Mr. Hale's position, forthwith rushed to the rescue, and wrote another letter, echoing his requests for retention, and repeating his slanders on Messrs. Perry and Seward, which was also forthwith given to the public.

The quarrel between Hale and Perry, however, is of somewhat ancient date, and the State Department at Washington abounds in documents touching its origin, progress, and leading features. Some of these papers have been published, and will be carefully perused, we trust, by Mr. Fogg and the other New Hampshire gentlemen who consider Mr. Hale's personal and official honor identical with that of their common State. After they have given the subject a careful study, we shall be glad to hear from them further as to what they think about it.

It seems that as long ago as in the spring of 1867 the Spanish Government made formal

complaint, through our Secretary of Legation, that our Minister, Mr. Hale, had been in the habit of smuggling goods into Spain under cover of his diplomatic privilege, for the profit and advantage of a Spanish commercial house, and of receiving regular payments at the hands of that house for the taxes which the Government was thus defrauded. Full proofs of these transactions were at the same time furnished, and it was shown that Mr. Hale had kept, with the commercial house concerned, a regular account current of the profit and loss of this disgraceful traffic. In consequence of the desire of the Spanish Government not to give a useless notoriety to the transaction, our Secretary, Mr. Perry, contented himself with reporting the matter in due course to the Government at Washington, and with informing Mr. Hale of the action taken by the Spanish authorities. Mr. Hale, on the contrary, seems to have thereupon commenced that personal warfare upon Mr. Perry and his family which he has continued with so much assiduity down to the present time—none of his most recent official communications being a description of the personal appearance, age, dress, and general demeanor of Mr. Perry. Why he was left in office by Secretary Seward for so long a time after his official misconduct had been officially brought to the notice of our Government, we find it difficult to understand. He returned this forbearance, as might have been expected, by the coarsest and most mendacious abuse of the official from whom he had received it.

We see it stated that the dispute is to be settled by the removal of both Mr. Hale and Mr. Perry. We fail to see either justice or good sense in such a disposition of the case. If both parties were equally in fault, or if both parties were equally in the wrong, it would be difficult to decide which had more reason to blame, the case would bear a different aspect. But it is not so. Mr. Hale is shown to have degraded his official position, insulted the country to which he is accredited and disgraced the nation he represents, by carrying on the business of a smuggler under cover of his diplomatic character. A grosser or less excusable offense it is not easy to imagine. Mr. Perry has been guilty of nothing, is not even accused of anything, and is universally conceded to have performed the duties of his office with ability, dignity, and success. He has said the entire respect at all times of the Government to which he was accredited, and of the people among whom he lives. We see no reason why he should be removed from office, or why he should receive anything but approval and applause at the hands of the Government he has served.

Senator Sprague's Last Spread.

From the N. Y. Herald. Senator Sprague of Rhode Island has again electrified the Senate and the country with another of his pungent, stirring, and characteristic speeches. His theme, like his pioneer effort, was the deplorable condition of the country, taking the whisky and tobacco tax as the text upon which to hinge his sparkling effusion. Although on reading his speech it is at times a little difficult to discern what he is exactly driving at, yet it must be remembered that one of England's most remarkable men, Horace Walpole, was noted for occasional obscurity and ambiguity while giving utterance to noble thoughts. Senator Sprague is the Walpole of the American Senate. Like Walpole, he rarely addresses the Senate, but when he does he stirs up the old fogies amazingly. As we said of Walpole, so we may remark of Sprague—his life is devoted to the gratification of a fastidious and whimsical taste, and in a measure to retelling and recording the political gossip and fashionable scandal of the day. Furthermore, and in continuation of this analogy, Sprague, like Walpole, is placed in comfortable circumstances so far as worldly possessions are concerned; has a taste for pictures, prints, books, manuscripts, relics of antiquity, objects of vertu and a thousand odds and ends; in brief, he is a sort of gaffer-up of curious and trifling things, with which he amuses himself and edifies his friends. Moreover, Sprague, like Walpole, to continue the figure, is famous for his letters, the style being singularly easy and appropriate—take, for example, the brusque note addressed lately by Mr. Sprague to the editor of a Rhode Island paper; and as was said of Walpole, so it may be repeated of Sprague: "the most eccentric, the most artificial, the most fastidious, the most capricious of men," he is, nevertheless, just the man for the times for the United States Senate as at present constituted. He starts the old dry bones of that body with a sudden shock that a telegraph operator sometimes feels while manipulating his instrument during a thunder storm. If he does not make them howl he makes them laugh, which is evidence that at any rate he enlists their attention—a merit that Garrett Davis' long-winded harangues upon blown-up topics cannot boast of. There is one thing, however, decidedly transcendent in Senator Sprague's last spread—his heretofore denials that he had bought the National Intelligencer. Here he shows wisdom. There is no indication of vacillation, no exhibition of imbecility of mind, so far as that operation is concerned. And while his colleague, Senator Anthony, attempts to put a rosy and facetious glow upon Senator Sprague's stunning oratorical effort on Thursday last, by pronouncing him, with more truth than jest, a leader of finance, in the same breath in which he characterizes Colorado Jewett as a diplomat and George Francis Train a general statesman, Sprague himself embarks amid the approving smiles of a galaxy of fashionably attired ladies in the Senate galleries, Sprague does not like Anthony. Neither do we. Anthony is envious of the advancing celebrity of his gamecock colleague. Hence Anthony's wings are likely to be clipped in the little bantam State of Rhode Island, and Sprague will crow louder than ever. Sprague is useful in the Senate. The eighteen-year settlers in that body are growing moulty—like old cheese. They are getting tough and corrupt. Their Indian yaddings, famous as New England is for making them, are bad jokes. They require ventilation, and Senator Sprague is just the man, with his pluck, brains, and cash, to give them an airing. He can afford to speak out. He wants no office. His ambition is to save his country. Go on, Senator Sprague—the Walpole of the American Senate—you are developing a splendid mine of intellectual wealth, and every patriot in the land will wish you God-speed in your sublime efforts to reform the corruptions and abuses that have crept into the high places in our political tabernacles.

—Prim is so prim as to be called the Spanish Sphinx.

—Dr. Livingstone was elected to the French Academy by 44 votes out of 56.

—The King of Italy has made Henry Lumley a chevalier for inventing an improved rudder.

—The Consul-General of France in the capital of Peru is to be raised into a legation.

—Baron Sina is said to be the richest man in Vienna. He is richer than any of the Rothschilds.

—March 4 being the anniversary of Starr King's death, was appropriately observed in San Francisco.

—One banking-house in Lubec receives every six months upwards of \$75,000 worth of United States coupons.

—The London Telegraph says that the new English coat dress is a copy of the favorite costume worn by George Washington.

CARPETINGS, ETC. 1869 SPRING 1869 LEEDOM & SHAW, No. 910 ARCH Street. We are now receiving a very large stock of NEW GOODS for

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NEW CARPETINGS! ARCH STREET Carpet Warehouse. JOSEPH BLACKWOOD, 411 Arch Street, No. 832 ARCH Street.

FURNITURE, ETC. FURNITURE. A. & H. LEJAMBRE HAVE REMOVED THEIR

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FURNITURE. T. & J. A. HENKELS HAVING REMOVED TO THEIR ELEGANT STORE, No. 1002 ARCH Street, Are now selling FIRST-CLASS FURNITURE at very Reduced Prices. 413 Spruce.

AVISO. MEUBLES FINO EN EXHIBICION, in Serde de Cuartos, COLOCADO COMO Salas de recibimiento y CUARTOS DE CAMARA. GEORGE J. HENKELS, THIRTEENTH and CHESNUT, PHILADELPHIA.

FOR THE LADIES. 1115. WM. T. HOPKINS' 1115 LADIES' EMPORIUM. No. 1115 CHESNUT STREET (GIRARD ROW).

Largest assortment and Best and Cheapest Goods in the city in all the following lines:—Manufacturer of Hopkins' Celebrated Champion Hoop Skirts, for Ladies, Misses, and Children, in over four hundred styles, shapes, lengths, and sizes. Corsets, Satine, and Jersey Corsets, in eight different styles, manufactured expressly for our own sales, from \$1.50 to \$5.00.

52 different styles of superior fitting French wove Whitebone CORSETS, from \$1 to \$7. 14 varieties of extra handsome Whitebone Corsets, from 75 cents to \$2.50. Shoulder Braces, Madame Foy's Corset Kick Supporters, &c. Mrs. Moody's Patent Self-adjusting Abdominal Corset, highly recommended by Physicians, from \$3 to \$7. FULL LINES OF LADIES' UNDERGARMENTS.

52 Bartram's Family Sewing Machines, being gratuitously distributed to our customers for the purpose of getting them introduced. PAPER HANGINGS, ETC. BEAN & WARD, PLAIN AND DECORATIVE PAPER HANGINGS, NO. 251 SOUTH THIRD STREET, BETWEEN WALNUT AND SPRUCE, PHILADELPHIA.

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PROPOSALS. OFFICE OF ASSISTANT COMMISSARY SUBSISTENCE. FRANKFORD ARSENAL, April 7, 1869. Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received by the undersigned at this office until 12 M., April 24, 1869, for furnishing the troops stationed at Frankford Arsenal with FRESH BEEF, of a good marketable quality, in equal proportions of fore and hind-quarters, excluding neck, shanks, and kidney tail-lob; the beef to be delivered free of cost to the troops in such quantities and on such days as may be from time to time required by the proper authority, and to continue in force six months, or such less time as the Commissary-General shall direct, and subject to his approval, commencing on the 1st day of May, 1869. Upon acceptance of the offer security and bond in the sum of six hundred dollars will be required for the faithful performance of the contract. Bids to be endorsed "Proposals for Fresh Beef." WILLIAM PRINCE, 48 6t First Lieut. Ord., Bvt. Capt. U. S. A., C. S.

LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of LORENZ ISHBY. Copied and filed for record, settle, and adjust the account of JOSEPH ISHBY, Executor of the last will and testament of LORENZ ISHBY, deceased, and to report distribution of the balance of the account, and the account, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of the adjustment, on TUESDAY, April 13, at four o'clock P. M., at the office of JOHN E. COLAHAN, Esq., No. 484 WALNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia. 43 1m

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of C. E. POORVILLE (C. E. MCGANN). The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit, settle, and adjust the final account of JOHN E. COLAHAN, Esq., Guardian of C. E. POORVILLE (C. E. MCGANN), was on the 10th day of January 1869, and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the account, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of the adjustment, on TUESDAY, April 13, at four o'clock P. M., at the office of JOHN E. COLAHAN, Esq., No. 484 WALNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia. 43 1m

WOODLANDS CEMETERY COMPANY.—The following Managers and Officers have been elected for the year 1869. ELLI K. PRICE, President. William H. Moore, Treasurer. Samuel S. Moon, Secretary. Gillian Dellett, Edwin Greble, Ferdinand J. Dreser, George L. Busby, Secretary and Treasurer, JOSEPH B. TOWNSEND. The Managers have passed a resolution requesting both Lot-Holders and Visitors to present tickets at the entrance for admission to the Cemetery. Tickets may be had of the Office of the Company, No. 513 ARCH Street, or of any of the Managers. 12